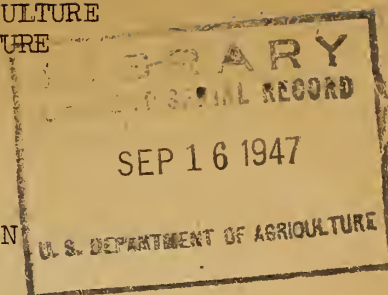


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ANIMAL "ELLIS ISLAND" BUSY AGAIN

Animals from overseas are emigrating to the United States again, now that shipping, shut off by the war, is available to them. To protect American livestock against foreign diseases, the U. S. Department of Agriculture holds these animals in quarantine long enough to make sure they bring no dangerous disease organisms with them. As almost all animals from overseas enter this country at the port of New York, the Department maintains its only animal quarantine station at Athenia, N.J., about 10 miles from Newark. When their ship docks in New York harbor, the imported animals are hoisted over the side into special cars drawn up alongside on lighters, which ferry them to the railway tracks that run past the quarantine station.

Both domestic animals, imported mainly for breeding, and wild animals bound for a zoo pass through Athenia. During the last six months of 1946 the station received 171 cattle, 36 sheep, 21 deer of three different varieties, 27 antelopes, 14 giraffes, and 4 wart hogs. During the first six months of 1947 it received 261 purebred Jersey cattle from the Island of Jersey, the home of the breed, and 52 antelopes of various species, 16 giraffes, 10 deer, 6 wild swine, and one red buffalo, from several different parts of Africa.

The Athenia station, built in 1900, covers 52 acres and has accommodations for 600 cattle or other animals of comparable size. Each of its 18 brick and concrete barns, with cement floors and fittings to facilitate cleaning and disinfection, has its separate paddock. On the premises also are houses for the superintendent and his aides, as well as quarters for attendants engaged by the importers to feed and care for their animals during the quarantine period. Substantial woven-wire fences, 6 feet high, held by concrete posts, surround the station.

The minimum length of time the animal immigrants remain at their "Ellis Island" varies from 7 to 30 days, depending upon the kind of animal and the country from which it came. During this period the station provides roomy, clean stalls that are thoroughly disinfected before each new lot of animals comes in. A veterinarian examines the animals periodically, making all the tests necessary to determine the animal's freedom from disease. As soon as he gives them a clean bill of health, they go on to their destination.

The station veterinarians have found cases of foreign diseases that affect man as well as animals among the four-legged aliens coming under their observation. No animal open to the slightest suspicion as a disease carrier is allowed to go further into the United States. Most of those found to be possible carriers of infection are slaughtered and cremated on the station grounds. Sometimes an importer sends rejected animals back to their native land.

"The Athenia station," says Dr. B. T. Simms, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, "has played an important part in keeping foreign plagues such as foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, surra, and contagious pleuropneumonia from becoming established in this country."

(EDITORS AND WRITERS: You may obtain 8x10 glossy prints of any of the pictures here shown free on request to the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.)

(1) SS American Shipper, carrying 80 purebred Jersey cattle from the Island of Jersey in the English Channel, docks at a New York pier.

(2) Some of the purebred Jersey calves that crossed the Atlantic on SS American Shipper.

(3) Dr. T. W. Cole (right), in charge of the Animal Quarantine Station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Athenia, N.J., boards the SS American Shipper to look over the purebred Jerseys that will be under his supervision for the next 30 days or so. The attendant holding the cow is one of the crew from the Island of Jersey that cared for the cattle during the crossing.

(4) One of the Jerseys is led into the unloading box

(5) Which is hoisted over the side of the ship

(6) Onto a lighter drawn up alongside the ship. Here the cow is led into a freight car that will be ferried over to Newark, N.J., and run out to the Athenia quarantine station.

(7) Here attendants engaged by the importer unload the Jerseys.

(8) Dr. Cole (center) directs the job of disinfecting the loading dock at the station as soon as the Jerseys have gone through the gates.

(9) Dr. Cole (right) and his assistant, Dr. F. L. Herchenroeder, stand before one of the barns provided for the animal immigrants during their quarantine period.

(10) Dr. Cole leads Rajah's Rose, a 2 3/4-year-old purebred Jersey, into the station.

(11) A giraffe and a couple of zebras from Africa reach the Animal Quarantine Station.

(12) Other wild animals from Africa going into quarantine at Athenia are some blesboks.

(13) Handsomely marked giraffes

(14) And a wild boar. All will go on to the zoos to which they are consigned as soon as the station veterinarians give them a clean bill of health.

(15) Compartments where the animal immigrants are held during their quarantine periods are disinfected before and after each lot of animals. Here Peter Schmidt pumps a solution of cresylic disinfectant through the hose held by Frank De Groot.

(16) Veterinarians and others working with foreign animals under quarantine at the Athenia station are fumigated on leaving the premises, so that they will not carry any disease organisms out with them. Here Dr. F. L. Herchenroeder is fumigated with formaldehyde gas.